
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE LEGISLATURE TO FUND THE HAWAII RURAL HEALTH CARE
PROVIDER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, many residents of Hawaii are increasingly unable
2 to obtain timely and appropriate health care due to a shortage
3 of primary health care providers in the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, these shortages threaten the health of Hawaii's
6 residents and affect state health care costs and have also
7 pushed the federal government to designate a number of areas in
8 the State, particularly rural areas, as medically underserved
9 areas, as health professional shortage areas, or as having
10 medically underserved populations; and
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12 WHEREAS, the increasingly high cost of health care
13 professional education often requires individuals to seek out
14 the higher incomes that allow them to repay their student loans;
15 however, these higher incomes are usually in specialty care in
16 urban areas, not in the areas of greatest need in Hawaii; and
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18 WHEREAS, since September 1, 2012, at least twenty-five
19 health care providers have received loan repayment to work in
20 health professional shortage areas in Hawaii and are still
21 serving these communities through the Hawaii Rural Health Care
22 Provider Loan Repayment Program started by the John A. Burns
23 School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii using private
24 donations and matching federal funding; and
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26 WHEREAS, further funding is needed to continue the Hawaii
27 Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program to provide
28 loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, and nurse
29 practitioners who agree to work in a federally designated health
30 professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be
31 underserved; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
3 Representatives concurring, that the Legislature is encouraged
4 to fund the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment
5 Program administered through the John A. Burns School of
6 Medicine of the University of Hawaii to provide loan repayment
7 for physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners
8 who agree to work in a federally designated health professional
9 shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
13 University of Hawaii System and Director of Health.

